

National/International News

Studds Urges Immediate Suspension of Discharges

Washington, D.C. - On November 13, noting that President-elect Bill Clinton has publicly stated his opposition to the present discriminatory policy, Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA) urged Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney to immediately suspend enforcement of the current ban on lesbian and gay service personnel in pending discharge or disciplinary proceedings. Rep. Studds also asked the Pentagon to refrain from initiating any new investigations or proceedings. Studds was joined by 23 congressional colleagues in the letter to Cheney. Studds said it would be "manifestly unfair to pursue pending cases — with the obvious permanent impact on individuals involved — when a revision of the policy appears imminent." He also pointed out that studies by both the GAO and the department of Defense itself have concluded that lesbian and gay service personnel perform well and do not pose a security risk.

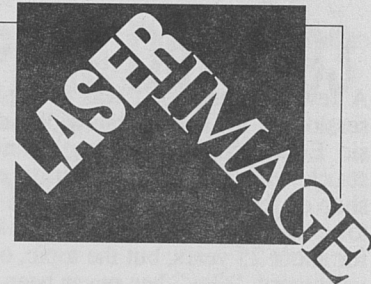
Gay Student Elected Homecoming King

Orono, ME - University of Maine senior Neal Snow, who was dismissed from the school's Air Force ROTC program in

September because he told officials he is gay was elected homecoming king on October 17 in a show of support by the student body. The election at homecoming ceremonies in front of thousands of students, surprised and pleased Snow who is considering appealing the dismissal. (*The Washington Blade*)

Suit Filed Against Colorado Ballot Initiative

Denver, Co - Tennis star Martina Navratilova, five other gay citizens, one heterosexual with AIDS and three cities filed suit in Colorado on November 12, seeking to have the anti-gay initiative passed by voters overturned on the basis of unconstitutionality. The lawsuit asks that the initiative be declared in violation of equal protection clauses of both the state and US constitutions. Lambda Legal defense and Education fund is assisting in the suit. Lambda lawyer Mary Newcombe said the plaintiffs are also trying to place a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the state from enforcing the initiative pending resolution of the suit. (*The Washington Blade*) ▼



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187 St. Paul St. Burlington VT
802.863.1884

David W. Curtis ATTORNEY AT LAW

HOFF, AGEL, CURTIS, PACT & CASSIDY, P.C.
100 Main Street
P.O. Box 247
Burlington, VT 05402-0247 802-864-4531

THOMAS L. PEAIRS Attorney at Law

Domestic Partnership and
Family Law

444 South Union Street
Suite 3S
Burlington, Vermont 05401

(802) 863-4657
FAX (802) 658-4293

ARANOFF ATTORNEYS AT LAW UPSON

SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE
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Susan L. Aranoff Lisa A. Upson
28 MAIN STREET, MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602
802.223.1418



ROBERT W. ZEUNER ATTORNEY AT LAW

Member National
Lesbian and
Gay Law
Association

Bauer, Gravel and Watson
362 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
863-5538